

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative George Fraley of Winchester.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Representative George Fraley, an icon of Tennessee politics who donated fourteen years of his life to the people of Tennessee through service in the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, George Fraley served with courage, conviction, and compassion as a member of the House of Representatives during the 100th through 106th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, during his seven terms in the House, he was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience, regardless of the consequences; and

WHEREAS, Representative Fraley was a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process, and he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions as a member of various House committees, including the Commerce Committee, Transportation Committee, which he served as both vice chair and secretary, Finance, Ways and Means Committee, and Conservation and Environment Committee; and

WHEREAS, as a public servant, Representative Fraley had a tremendously positive impact on the civil and economic development of the communities he served; he was responsible for a number of projects and improvements, including the funding of Highway 41A, allowing for the improvement from a two-lane highway to a divided four-lane highway from Decherd to Shelbyville; the rerouting and building of Highway 64 from Interstate 24 through Lincoln and Franklin counties; the continued support for the State Highway 50 bypass; and the

establishment of State Highway 476, allowing for state highway access to Tims Ford State Park; and

WHEREAS, George Fraley also played a key role in the establishment of a Solid Waste Authority recycling facility in Franklin County; the implementation of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in Franklin County; the purchase of the first computers and fax machines for the Franklin County courthouse; the funding of the development of pre-kindergarten classes in all Franklin County elementary schools; and the garnering of grants totaling more than \$40 million, which grants were used to develop and improve a number of projects in Franklin County, including the obtaining of funds for the Revitalization of Winchester, which will continue through 2022; the expansion of the Winchester and Sewanee airports; and the building of safety turn lanes for schools and hospitals in his district; and

WHEREAS, additionally, he collaborated with the Tennessee legislature and many other dedicated citizens to locate Nissan North America in Decherd; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as the Representative for House District 39, George Fraley was a secondary schoolteacher; a general insurance claims adjuster; a cattle farmer; an engineer, lead engineer, building manager, and supervisor at the Arnold Engineering Development Center; a Franklin County executive; a Franklin County commissioner; and the Chairman Pro Tempore of the Franklin County Commission for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Representative George Fraley lent his time and expertise to a number of civic and community organizations, serving as a member and director of the Tennessee Farm Bureau; chair of the Motlow State Community College's Local Elected Officials committee and the Franklin County Resource Development Association; member and past commander of American Legion Post #44; member and former chair of the Middle Tennessee Society for Nondestructive Testing; 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner; and member of the Franklin County Livestock Association, the Tennessee Agricultural Training Center Board, the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Board, the Franklin County Historical Society, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Southern Middle Tennessee Technical Institute Taskforce, and the Franklin County Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, for his unparalleled devotion to public service and his constituents, George Fraley received numerous awards and honors, including the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service in the Job Training Partnership Act; the Governor's Award for Outstanding Accomplishments, Great Sacrifices, and Distinguished Contributions; the 1999 Tennessee Development District Association Legislator of the Year Award; the 1997 Arnold Engineering Development District and United States Air Force Pioneer Award; the 1994 Motlow State Community College Outstanding Leadership and Voluntary Service Award; the Outstanding Franklin Jaycee Award; the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation Service Award; the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Award for Devoted Service to the Franklin County Community; and the Middle Tennessee State University 2011–2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2015, the Franklin County Democratic Party, the Franklin County Highway Department, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin County Commission, and the Franklin County mayor recognized Representative George Fraley at the celebration of "George Fraley Appreciation Day" and the dedication of a bridge on State Highway 476 in Franklin County in his honor; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Representative Fraley served with honor and valor as an active duty member of the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, George Fraley is survived by his wife, Betty Newman Fraley; two children, son, Beri Fraley, and daughter, Beth Fraley Eavey; and grandchildren, Anne Marie Fraley Rainey, Laura Beth Fraley Anderson, Rebecca Lee Fraley, Callie Elizabeth Eavey, Lindsey Leigh Eavey, and Megan Elizabeth Grenier; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, George Fraley, Sr., and Oshia Pearl Tipps Fraley; infant siblings, Hazel and Herman Fraley; and his sisters, Stella Ruch, Ernestine Mason, and Karene Wynne; and

WHEREAS, Representative George Fraley was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; he served with acumen and alacrity in all of the roles he filled

and the positions he occupied, and he earned the respect of his peers, proponents and opponents alike, for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Representative Fraley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should remember our colleague, George Fraley, an exceptional public servant, human being, and friend of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory and bountiful life of Representative George Fraley, reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy of effective public service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and express our condolences to the family and many friends of Representative Fraley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.